



CHICAGO'S GIRLS' CLUBS.

DISTINCTION OF THE C. G. M. E. G. AND COMPANIES OF THE SAME CLUB.

The Chicago Girls' Normal Benefit Club rejoices in the unique distinction of having a clubhouse all its own. The original conception of the club was only a thought that took root in the hearts and minds of some half dozen Chicago girls gathered together to discuss how a girls' club could be organized among the wage earners of the city. After some discussion they formed themselves into a band of King's Daughters, and to gain funds for their scheme gave a concert, with the proceeds of which they rented a cottage and formed classes for the study of practical topics, like sewing, millinery, typewriting, embroidery and the rest.

These classes are taught by some two-score volunteers and one paid teacher. The club members pay dues of 5 cents per week, except the teachers, who pay 20 cents per week, to defray partially the expense of a carriage, as the street car lines do not run near the cottage. All this of course has been written over many times in the history of girls' clubs, but the distinctive and interesting thing about this organization is that when the small clubhouse became overcrowded the plucky girls determined to build a clubhouse of their own. By various entertainments and subscriptions they managed to raise enough money to secure a lot. A friend then came to their aid and made a generous offer to build the clubhouse, charging them 6 percent on the investment to be paid as rent, and giving them the privilege of paying the principal any time within five years.

The club took possession of the new house in May, 1892, and already nearly one-half the lot is paid. Even in New York, where the working girls' club movement began and is supported by wealthy patrons, none of the clubs has as yet attained the dignity of a clubhouse of its own. The Thirty-ninth Street club, of which Miss Dodge is president, has an entire house rented and submits portions of it, but most of the societies meet in rental rooms. Sorosis, the great pioneer club, with its large membership, has no permanent home of its own, and no headquarters for the keeping of its archives.

The Jane Adams protege of Hull House and named in honor of Miss Jane Addams, is another interesting organization of 50 members, living together in communities in the club fashion established by men. It occupies a large flat, well lighted and heated, with hot and cold water and bathhouse on every floor.

The parlors are prettily furnished, the libraries well stocked with books. The large dining tables well supplied with appetizing food prepared by the club steward, who is hired in the regular way by the committee. There is a general meeting of the members every two weeks to attend to the business affairs of the club and to regulate matters generally. This might be called the safety valve of the machine, for if one has a grievance or a suggestion of any kind this is the place at which she can be heard. Each member feels her responsibility as honest and has the honor and interest of the club at heart. There are no rules and regulations; each member speaks for herself according to her own inclination. As far as it is given to outsiders to know, the Jane Adams success, demonstrating clearly the fact that a number of women can be housed under one roof and happy.

A shadow passed him. He recked not of danger.

He gazed for a moment into her dark brown eyes.

"Do you love me, Angel?"

"More than all else, Francois. I made them myself."

In his heart love battled with discretion.

"Thank you, Angel. I don't care if I do."

Love had triumphed.

"Adieu, Francois. Return soon."

"I will, Angel. Adieu."

He gazed for a moment into her dark brown eyes.

"Do you love me, Angel?"

"More than all else, Francois."

With a quiet, brief kiss he was gone.

"Can it be he murmured, "that she

knows what I suffer for her?"

Angela was written upon his brow.

"Weight, crushing weight."

He pressed his hand convulsively against his breast.

"Oh, Angel. If you only knew. Perhaps

—but, no, I cannot tell her. She

loves me surely."

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